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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 13, 2005

Contact: Mary Kamensky, UM Graduate School, (406) 243-4598.

UM PROGRAM TO SUPPORT AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATE STUDENTS

MISSOULA —

The A.P. Sloan Foundation has established a Sloan Scholars Program at The University of Montana. This program will provide supplemental financial support for American Indian graduate students studying the natural sciences at UM.

The purpose of the program is to increase the number of American Indian students in the sciences.

David Strobel, associate dean of the Graduate School, and Penny Kukuk, research professor in the Division of Biological Sciences, are the primary investigators for the grant and will supervise the program. Graduate School staff member Mary Kamensky will serve as the project coordinator and will respond to any questions regarding the program.

The Sloan Scholars Program provides supplemental funding of \$30,000 over a two-year period for master's level students and \$36,000 over a three-year period for doctoral students.

In addition, science programs must offer students a teaching or research assistantship in order for students to be eligible for Sloan funding, as the money is provided as a supplement to departmental assistantships.

Funding for students will be available fall semester 2005 through fall semester 2007.

Kamensky said UM President George Dennison made the initial contact with the A.P.

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Sloan Foundation. He visited the foundation in Washington, D.C., and then Sloan's Ted Greenwood visited the UM campus. Then the UM Foundation and School of Forestry and Conservation met with Greenwood, and they developed a proposal that was successful in developing a Native American Natural Resources Program in the forestry school.

While on campus, Greenwood also saw the potential of developing a Sloan Scholars Program for graduate students at UM. It would be based on a model he developed at the University of Arizona. Through a successful collaboration with Dennison, Provost Lois Muir, the Graduate School, the UM Foundation and faculty members, the Sloan Scholars Program for graduate students was brought to campus.

In addition to funding, UM Sloan scholars will be supported by a culturally appropriate infrastructure. They will take a graduate seminar taught by Penny Kukuk and an American Indian graduate student that provides initial orientation and assistance to students. Students also will have an American Indian counselor available to them, as well as campus activities that will involve students' family members. This support is designed to assure that students make good progress in their graduate programs and graduate in a timely fashion.

The eligibility requirements for the Sloan Scholars Program are:

- Students must be tribally identified.
- Only students applying to graduate programs in the Division of Biological Sciences, Department of Chemistry, College of Forestry and Conservation, Department of Geology, Department of Environmental Studies and the interdisciplinary sciences are eligible. Students in environmental studies must have a natural or physical science curriculum to qualify.
- Sloan funding is for new graduate students only. Students now enrolled in graduate

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programs are not eligible. However, students working on their master's can apply for funding as a new student if they apply for a doctoral program after receiving their master's degree.

■ Students must have a written offer for a teaching or research assistantship from their program before they can apply for Sloan supplemental funding.

The Sloan Scholars Program also will be offered for science and engineering programs at Montana Tech in **Butte**.

For more information, call Mary Kamensky in the Graduate School at (406) 243-4598 or e-mail mkamensky@mso.umt.edu.

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